

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 30, 32-39, 42-50, 52-59, and 61-68 are currently pending and stand rejected. Applicants herein amend claims 30, 65, and 68 to recite “wherein the average diameter of the insoluble particles of at least one cationic polymer is less than 500 nm.” Support for the amendment can be found, for example, at page 9, lines 7-11, of the originally filed specification, and in the claims as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by this amendment.

II. Arguments

The Examiner has again rejected claims 30, 32-39, 42-50, 52-59, and 61-68 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,744,978 to Homan (“*Homan*”) in view of WO 93/23009 to Kumar et al. (“*Kumar*”) for the reasons set forth on pp. 2-4 of the Office Action. Applicants continue to disagree with this rejection, particularly in light of the current amendment.

The M.P.E.P. requires that, for a combination of references to be effective under § 103, the references taken together must teach or suggest each and every limitation recited in the present claims. M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. This requirement is not met here with respect to the presently amended claims.

Amended independent claims 30, 65, and 68, recite, *inter alia*, an aqueous dispersion of insoluble particles of at least one cationic polymer, wherein the average diameter of the insoluble particles of at least cationic polymer is less than 500 nm. Neither *Homan* nor *Kumar* teaches the presently claimed aqueous dispersion, wherein

the average diameter of the insoluble particles of at least one cationic polymer is less than 500 nm. In fact, both references are entirely silent as to insoluble particles, let alone their size. For at least this reason, therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under § 103(a) be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

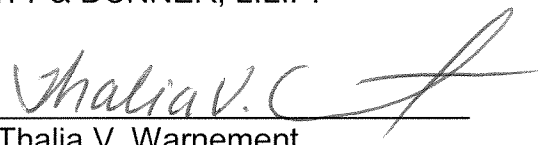
In view of the above remarks, Applicants request reconsideration and reexamination of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 408-4454 to resolve any outstanding issues.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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